

Lexington School Committee
January 24, 2006
LHS Media Center
251 Waltham Street

Present: Superintendent Paul Ash, School Committee: Chair Helen Cohen, Scott Burson, Tom Diaz, Tom Griffiths, Olga Guttag and student representative Toni Maeck
Minutes taken by Leora Tec.

I. Call to order and welcome (Helen Cohen 7:41 pm):

II. Public comment

Lily Eyraud (LHS student): We should reinstate the Drug Prevention program run by Julie Fenn and Beth Mintz. Would like them both full-time.

Brittany Lopes (LHS Student): We stop in to see Julie often and she does a lot more than 10 hours.

Marissa Fiore (LHS Student): Over 100 students signed up for the program. We have a petition with a couple hundred signatures.

Devin Shaw (LHS Student): The program is also to help kids who are nervous about peer pressure. We are role models for them. It's not only about drugs and alcohol.

Pedro Barbosa (LHS Student): It helped us to talk to little kids. We love Julie and Beth.

Emily Fenn (LHS Student): Middle schoolers meet high schoolers and feel free to say hi. We have adult teen dialogue nights.

III. Superintendent's Report

1. Thursday is the public hearing on the FY07 budget. The whole evening is for citizens to speak.
2. There is a proposal to increase state aid to schools to a minimum of \$2,000 per child. We currently get \$862 per child, so if this goes through we would receive \$6,000,000 more. School committees have been voting to support this legislation.

IV. Members' Reports/Members' Concerns

Tom Griffiths:

1. Financial Review Committee and Senior Center Siting Committee are proceeding nicely.
2. A troubling comment at the Selectmen's meeting: one Selectmen said that since the schools got their money early, any surplus when health care is taken out should be given to the town.

Tom Diaz:

1. He wants to remind administrators and elementary principals that high school students will be counting "idlers," that is people idling their cars, at the elementary schools.

2. Planning Board meeting: they discussed the inclusionary housing motion, by which a warrant in Town Meeting would regulate rental and sales prices to make more affordable housing. This could add more than 100 affordable homes

Scott Burson:

The Cary Memorial Library Foundation raised money to support operations of the library and will make a second large transfer of \$50,000 to trustees of library to buy materials.

V. Discussion Items

A. Recommended Grades 6-8 budget (Helen Cohen and Tom Griffiths)

In general:

- 100 more students at Diamond
- Administrative expense budgets up 18% at Diamond and down 19% at Clarke
- Clarke has a Learning Center and Diamond has a literacy program. The principals think this does not mean there is an inequity between Clarke and Diamond.
- Professional development funds requested in many departments

	Additional FTEs	Expenses	Comments
Science	none	Increases at both C and D	
Business (keyboarding)	none	Increases at C and D (including \$1500 for software at D)	
Info. Tech.	none	Increases at C and D (including CAD software at D)	
Math	.5 for both C and D	More supplies for both C and D, more textbooks at C	
ELA, debate, speech and journalism	none	In ELA: 37% decrease in C; 2.2% increase at D; In speech, journ. and debate: 205% increase	
Social Studies	.05 to dept head at D	37% decrease in supplies at C; 13% increase in supplies at D	
Clarke Learning Center	none	No increase	

B. Recommended Grades K-12 Budget (Scott Burson and Tom Griffiths)
Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development:

Lynne Sarasin: We need both horizontal alignment of curriculum and vertical coordination so that it's coherent and smooth. Major items for FY07 are training for Scott Forseman, self-study, and reviews of English, Mathematics and Wellness/Health. Lynn Sarasin also pointed out that the goal is to make professional development funds easier to track. There is a request for an additional 1.0 for an Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development (to replace the current .6 Assistant to the Superintendent), and an additional .5 administrative assistant. \$51K is requested for professional development and \$40K for conference fees and travel. There is a decrease of \$12K for consultants and a decrease of \$22K for in-state travel. \$30K is requested for contracted services for program evaluation and curriculum review.

Library/Media

No staffing changes. \$20K is requested for equipment and an additional \$8K for supplies.

K-12 Technology

Staffing increases: 2 FTE field technicians and a 0.1 FTE database administrator. Expenses increased 48.57% from FY06.

K-12 English Language Learners

In order to comply with state mandates the following additional staff are requested: 1 FTE ELL Director; 1 ELL Teacher (Gr. 6-8); 3 FTE ELL Teachers (K-5); and 1 FTE ELL (high school). ELL instructional assistant hours will be reduced by 100 hours in the elementary level and increased by 40 hours at the high school level.

There is an \$8K increase in expenses in order to bring our program into compliance.

K-12 Physical Education and Wellness

The Superintendent is proposing that the administration of this program be moved from the Athletic Director to a Director of Physical Education and Wellness.

Staffing: elimination of a .75 FTE Health Coordinator; and the addition of a .5 FTE Health Curriculum Specialist, a .25 FTE increase in middle school health teachers, a .25 increase to the elementary health teachers and a .5 FTE 6-12 Health Prevention Specialist.

Contracted services increase by \$17K. The FY07 budget attempts to make a more realistic estimation of costs for repairs and maintenance of physical education equipment at \$7000.

K-12 Visual Arts

Staffing: .2 FTE increase in visual arts.

Funding: 18% lower than in FY06.

K-12 Performing Arts

Staffing: .6 FTE for a K-12 Performing Arts Coordinator is requested.

Funding: 58% increase from FY06, much of it for repair, maintenance and replacement.

Superintendent's Office and School Committee Expenses

(See above for replacement of .6 FTE Assistant to the Superintendent position by 1.0 FTE Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development position).

Funding for the Superintendent's Office decreases by 20% for FY07. Funding for the School Committee, mostly for legal expenses, increases from \$125K to \$145K from FY06 to FY07.

Human Resources:

No staffing changes. A 28% increase in expenses but a 10% reduction in the amount budgeted for substitutes.

Central Office- Finance and Operations

No staffing changes. Transportation expenses increased by 4% and print shop expenses increased by 12%.

Olga Gutttag brought up the fact that she will not be ready to vote on the budget by January 31st. The Committee agreed they would postpone the vote to 5:00 on February 7th pending Paul Ash checking his calendar. The meeting will take place in the Central Office.

Facilities

Staffing: There are requests for 1 FTE Facilities Manager, 1 FTE Building Technician and 4 additional custodians.

Funding: the requested budget would be a 22.49% increase from FY06. Bill Hartigan is proposing a preventative maintenance program for LHS the two Middle Schools and Harrington.

Discussion regarding why we would only do preventative maintenance on the newer buildings: It depends on when and if we are anticipating rebuilding. The amount proposed for the preventative maintenance is below the industry standard, though it is not unusual to be below that standard. According to Bill Hartigan, in a year or two we will come to an equilibrium.

C. FY07 Recommended Capital Plan and Five-year Plan

The plan has been revised. The major change is we removed safety items that are not capital items. We have added strategic planning funds for elementary schools (\$40,000 to work with an architect). Another major change is the auditorium repair program for LHS has been reduced from 5 years to 3 years.

Discussion on whether to put technology on an override, and whether technology should be included in capital or operating expenses.

Motion to support the Superintendent's capital budget to take to Capital Expenditures Committee (Guttag, Griffiths) passed 4-0 (Scott Burson not present).

Tom Griffiths proposed increasing SALDIF to \$650,000 to decrease budget by \$250,000. Paul Ash agrees.

VI. Action Items:

FY07 Calendar:

Motion to accept FY07 calendar as is (Guttag, Diaz) passed 4-0 (Scott Burson not present).

VII. Motion to adjourn (Tom Griffiths, Olga Guttag) passed 4-0 (Scott Burson not present). Meeting adjourned at 11:25 PM